

A multiport data communication system for switching data packets between ports comprises a plurality of ports for receiving and transmitting data packets, a memory temporarily storing the data packets received at the switch. Each port has a transmit queue queuing data packets from the memory, an output terminal outputting the data packets, and a data path connecting the transmit queue and the output terminal. The data path has a gate controlling transferring of data packets in the data path to the output terminal. The data packets are frame data and all data in each respective transmit queue is transferred to the data path regardless of the assertion or deassertion of the enable signal. The enable signal controls the gate to either transfer an entire frame on the data path to the output terminal or block transfer of the entire frame to the output terminal. At the same time, the transmit queue is emptied, whether or not the frame is blocked or transferred.